



Council Chat



The Quarterly Newsletter of the
New Hampshire Family Support Councils



May-August 2011

Region IV (Concord Area)

The Family Support Council has been very busy this past quarter.

The Council hosted the annual Council recruitment dinner on Wednesday March 23, 2011, at the Red Blazer in Concord. Over twenty people participated and five people will be joining the Council.

The Council offered a free three DVD collection to each SAU and town library in their area. The set includes: Including Samuel, Temple Grandin and Lost in Laconia. 25 town libraries and SAU's have ordered. Distribution of the free collection is scheduled for early April.

The Council has completed the winter edition of their newsletter. The newsletter is mailed to over 1000 families, legislators and other community organizations. It is also posted on the Community Bridges website on the Family Support Council page and on the Community Bridges Facebook page. The spring edition will be available in April.

In January, the Council hosted a talk with the authors of the book, "Shut Up about your Perfect Kid." Over 60 people attended the evening, sharing their stories and talking with the authors. Signed copies of the book were also available for purchase at the event.

The Council has started a small lending library

of DVD's, books and other media. The materials are available for free to anyone connected to Community Bridges. Currently the library contains over 40 items to lend.

Submitted by Terri Warren

Region VII (Manchester Area)

The Region 7 Council is closely monitoring what happens to the budget. We have been actively participating in each step of the legislative process.

It was heartwarming on March 31st, to see so many caring people advocating for the needs of the population we love and care for.

Many of us attended the Senate hearing held yesterday. We offered verbal or written testimony to convince our representatives of the serious impact that budget cuts would have on our most vulnerable citizens.

We recognize that in spite of our best efforts, the Agency will be asked to continue to maintain a high quality of care with less money. We will roll up our sleeves, sharpen our pencils and find the solution. We will land on our feet. It's just a matter of when.

Submitted by Ellen A. Boudreau

Region X (Salem Area)

The holidays this year were difficult for many. Thanks to the outpouring of support from people and businesses in our area, Region 10

was able to assist over 75 children and families with clothing, gifts, and food this past season. We are blessed to have built relations within the community that continue to support our mission year after year.

Region 10 is proud to have been selected to participate in the NH Charitable Games of Chance at the Rockingham Park Race Track. 1/3 of the proceeds from each of our 10 scheduled evenings this year will directly benefit the individuals we serve. We are also happy to report that the Kid's Carnival held in February raised almost \$6000! The Region 10 Annual Silent Auction is coming up on May 6th at Zorvino's Vineyards in Sandown, NH, and plans are underway for our 22nd annual golf tournament to be held in September.

The Council continues to focus on parent education and training and sponsors many parent training opportunities throughout the year. It was a struggle this winter for families to attend these events and subsequently trainings were cancelled. This spring we are offering several informative sessions including workshops on stress reduction, special education services, helping students make friends, and more. In April, the FSC sponsored 20 families to attend the annual Family Support Conference. We are also granting "camperships", which individuals can use to fund a summer activity of their choosing.

We are always looking for new members to join the Council. We recently included an insert on the "Top 5 Reasons why YOU should Consider Joining the Region 10 Family Support Council" in our monthly Connections newsletter. Our website and Facebook page are great resources for our families and are continually updated with legislative alerts and important public policy information. Please visit us at www.Region10NH.org

Submitted by Aleece Pappas

Council Chat: May-August 2011

Greetings from the Bureau of Developmental Services

Taking on a new role at a challenging time, I appreciate your support and feedback as we move forward. I have attended some Family Support Council meetings and will continue to make time available to meet both personally with you and with the group as I come to understand the fundamental pieces of this position.

With so many changes coming our way, I know there are concerns about how individuals and families will be impacted. As you know, the Bureau has developed criteria, with input from throughout the state, to consider in the evaluation of maintaining or reducing services to individuals and their families.

Your input is essential to keep the process as open and clear as possible. We will keep you informed as changes come with the budget as well as services. No idea is too small to be discarded as we move forward. Please share them all.

On another topic, as this Chat comes out, the 25th Annual Family Support Conference will be over. We appreciate the hard work and organization skills that make the conference a success. Thanks go to the Bureau staff, Peggy Sue and Debra Gibbs, as well as Marge Louney and the Conference Planning Committee for your work in making an idea a reality for us all. I hope I met you all there.

Submitted by Linda Graham



***The Council on Developmental Disabilities
Needs your Input!***

The NH Council on Developmental Disabilities develops a state plan every five years to establish specific goals, objectives and strategies to remove barriers and to improve the life of people with developmental disabilities in NH.

The council has issued a draft plan that has been posted online at www.nhcdd.org or it can be obtained by calling the council office at 271-3236.

Your feedback will help ensure that the council devotes its limited resources to those areas that are important and where there is the greatest potential to make a difference in people's lives.

Comments may be submitted online at www.nhcdd.org all comments must be received by May 13, 2011.

**State Family Support Council
Meeting Schedule
2011**

June 6, 2011
August 1, 2011
October 3, 2011

Meeting Location:
New Hampshire Hospital
36 Clinton Street
Concord, NH

Meetings start at 6:00pm and end at 8:30pm.

**THE COUNCIL CHAT IS NOW BEING
PUBLISHED ON A
QUARTERLY BASIS
NEXT CHAT DEADLINE: Please send your
information for the next Chat issue by:
July 1, 2011**

Information can be sent by the following methods:
via E-mail to:

lisa.a.ricci@dhhs.state.nh.us

or

Via Fax: 271-5166

Council Chat: May-August 2011

or

Via Mail: Lisa Ricci
Bureau of Developmental Services
105 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

**The Council Chat can now be accessed online
from the Bureau of Developmental Services
Website. You can find it by going to the Bureau
of Developmental Services' newly updated
website at:**

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bds/family.htm>

**The Council Chat is a newsletter for New
Hampshire Family Support Council Members.
The newsletter is distributed to all Family
Support Council members, Family Support
Coordinators, and Area Agency Executive
Directors statewide.**

**If you would like to provide information for a
future newsletter please send your ideas or
articles to:**

Council Chat

Attention: Lisa Ricci
Bureau of Developmental Services
105 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
lisa.a.ricci@dhhs.state.nh.us

**If you would like to talk with a staff member
directly, you can reach someone at the Bureau of
Developmental Services by email or by calling
1-800-852-3345 and then dialing one of the
following extensions:**

Linda Graham, Administrator, BDS Child &
Family Supports and Services, extension 5036,
email: lgraham@dhhs.state.nh.us; or

Carolyn Stiles, Director, NH Part C (Early
Intervention), extension 5122, email:
cstiles@dhhs.state.nh.us; or

Lisa Ricci, extension 5060, E-mail:
lisa.a.ricci@dhhs.state.nh.us